

HIRSCH/STERN AND STORY SYNDICATE
PRESENT

LIEV SCHREIBER · JASON ALEXANDER · BEN SHENKMAN · LAKE BELL
MARIN HINKLE · LILLI KAY · PETER JACOBSON · GEORGE GUIDALL
AND NARRATOR **MAYIM BIALIK**
IN



THE CONSPIRACY

WRITTEN AND DIRECTED BY
MAXIM POZDOROVKIN

A
STORY SYNDICATE
PRODUCTION

IN ASSOCIATION WITH
THIRD PARTY FILMS · JEWISH STORY PARTNERS · ILLUMINATED CONTENT

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THE CONSPIRACY

FEATURE DOCUMENTARY — 2022

LOGLINE

An animated film about the biggest lie ever told: Jews are plotting to take over the world. Behind the torch-bearing chants of “Jews will not replace us” is an age-old myth. As we follow this myth from the fringe to the mainstream, three Jewish families are made into scapegoats, their names forever linked to the notion that Jews are a monolithic group set on world domination.

SYNOPSIS

The Conspiracy begins with a man in front of a wall of computers. As he descends down an internet rabbit hole, a chorus of voices coalesces around one idea: there is a secret group controlling the world, and that group is an international network of Jews.

Narrated by Mayim Bialik and directed by Maxim Pozdorovkin, THE CONSPIRACY is an animated documentary that shows how a centuries-old myth has moved from the fringe to the mainstream, becoming a pillar of modern anti-Semitism. To tell this story, the film uses the first-hand accounts of three prominent Jewish families. We follow the Dreyfuses, Warburgs, and Bronsteins as the conspiracy develops and the lives of these families are woven further into its net. Alternating between the stories of a French soldier, a German banker, and a Russian revolutionary, the film spans centuries to show the recurrence of the same conspiracy theory.

This conspiracy that ravages the lives of our characters is set against the backdrop of a larger story about the Jewish people. From Simonini’s letter blaming the French Revolution on a Jewish conspiracy to the poisonous Protocols of the Elders of Zion, conmen and forgers spin an elaborate web of lies blaming Jews for the ills of the world. Disaffected citizens conjure up alternative explanations for democratic progress, and delusional nationalists pin the failures of their country on Jewish residents. Antisemites attempt to justify their hate with pseudo-scientific race theory. All the way up to the present day.

The Conspiracy ends by returning to Robert Bowers in his Pittsburgh apartment. Convinced that an aid society, with ties to the Warburg family, is conspiring to replace the white race by bringing in refugees, Bowers commits mass murder at the Tree of Life Synagogue.

DIRECTOR’S QUOTE

“When faith in the press and the government erodes, when institutions crumble, societies are overrun by conspiracy theories. All conspiracy theories hinge on a belief in a secret group that keeps the truth hidden from the gullible masses. We see it in today’s America where 44% of US voters believe in a ‘secret cabal.’

“THE CONSPIRACY shows that this myth has plagued the world for centuries and how it became the bedrock of antisemitism today. The recent outpouring of antisemitism in the US is rooted in a vague notion of ‘Jewish control.’ This myth motivated the perpetrator of a massacre at the Tree of Life synagogue in 2018. In recent months, this idea has resurfaced in ever more alarming ways. THE CONSPIRACY uncovers the history of a really bad idea. By bad I mean both intellectually bankrupt and toxic, an idea that's been weaponized in the death and persecution of millions.”

— Director Maxim Pozdorovkin

THE CONSPIRACY

PRAISE FOR THE CONSPIRACY

"Maxim Pozdorovkin's THE CONSPIRACY is original, creative, brilliant and enduring. It makes history real and current. It takes a monstrous historic wrong - antisemitism - traces its beginnings, explains it and brings it up to the present moment. If you want to understand Antisemitism, watch THE CONSPIRACY."

Abe Foxman / Anti-Defamation League director 1987-2015, Holocaust survivor, Author

"Accomplishes something important and, at times, mind-opening. ... Couldn't be more timely."

Owen Gleiberman , VARIETY

"Downright chilling."

Lauren Wissot, FILMMAKER MAGAZINE

"Audiences can rely upon the provocative director to mine the world of spin doctors, populist politics, and headlines-in-the-making for a compelling tale"

Marc Glassman, POV MAGAZINE

"THE CONSPIRACY is essential viewing and needs to be seen by as many people as possible... This [visual style] is unlike anything I've ever seen before."

Danielle Solzman, SOLZY AT THE MOVIES

"A fascinating new documentary."

PJ Grisar, THE FORWARD

"That DOC NYC has programmed the film as the closing night title at this year's festival speaks to its faith in the clarity of Pozdorovkin's work, and also — regrettably — in the urgency of its truth"

David Ehrlich, INDIEWIRE

"Timely-as-ever animated documentary"

Sarah Rosen, JTA

THE CONSPIRACY

CREDITS

Written and Directed by **MAXIM POZDOROVKIN**

Director of Animation **DASHA BOUGH**

Produced by **JOE BENDER, DAN COGAN, CAROLINE HIRSCH, ALLISON STERN**

Executive Producers **LIZ GARBUS, JON BARDIN, MALA CHAPPLE**

Director of Photography **JOE BENDER**

Edited by **MATVEY KULAKOV**

Associate Producer **BRIENNA CARTER**

Music by **FRANK LONDON**

Casting by **DAVID CAPARELLIOTIS**

A **STORY SYNDICATE** Production

In Association with **THIRD PARTY FILMS, JEWISH STORY PARTNERS, ILLUMINATED CONTENT**

Presented by **HIRSCH/STERN** and **STORY SYNDICATE**

Featuring **LIEV SCHREIBER, JASON ALEXANDER, BEN SHENKMAN, LAKE BELL, MARIN HINKLE, LILLI KAY, PETER JACOBSON, GEORGE GUIDALL** and **REBECCA GIBEL**

Narrated by **MAYIM BIALIK**

THE CONSPIRACY

TECH SPECS

Original Title: THE CONSPIRACY

Format: 16:9 / 1.78:1

Running time: 92 minutes

Languages: English, French

Subtitles: English

Audio: 5.1/Stereo

Exhibition formats: DCP, QuickTime, BluRay

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FILMMAKER BIOS

MAXIM POZDOROVKIN, Writer/Director

Maxim Pozdorovkin is an award-winning director and producer based in New York City. He is the director of five feature-length documentaries and numerous short films. His most recent feature, *THE TRUTH ABOUT KILLER ROBOTS*, premiered at the 2018 Toronto International Film Festival and was broadcast on HBO. *OUR NEW PRESIDENT* premiered at Sundance 2018 where it won a Special Jury Award for Best Editing. Other films include: *PUSSY RIOT: A PUNK PRAYER* (Emmy winner), *THE NOTORIOUS MR. BOUT*, *CLINICA DE MIGRANTES* (HBO). Maxim holds a PhD from Harvard University and was an artist fellow at Harvard's Society of Fellows. His next film *HOW TO ROB BANKS FOR DUMMIES*, the story of video artist Joe Gibbons, is currently in post-production.

DASHA BOUGH, Director of Animation

Dasha Bough is an American director, artist, and animator. She studied traditional etching, drawing, stop-motion animation, and oil painting techniques at the Russian Imperial Academy of Art, and is completing her masters at Harvard University in Eastern European politics. Bough is best known for her 2017 TEDx sand art performance and her 2020 illustration work for the Emmy-nominated series *MRS. AMERICA* (Hulu FX) and blockbuster *GODZILLA VS. KONG*. *THE CONSPIRACY* will be her debut animated feature.

JOE BENDER, Producer · Director of Photography

Joe Bender is an award-winning producer and director of photography whose work spans all aspects of creative documentary. He most recently lensed *PERSONA* (CNN Films), shot and produced *THE TRUTH ABOUT KILLER ROBOTS* (HBO), which premiered at the 2018 Toronto International Film Festival, and filmed *THE CANDIDATES*, which premiered at DOC NYC. He produced the Sundance award-winning *OUR NEW PRESIDENT* (2018) and was named among DOC NYC's 40 under 40 (2018). Other recent work as Director of Photography appears in documentary films and series for Netflix, HBO, National Geographic and PBS, among others. He holds a Ph.D. from Harvard University.

DAN COGAN, Producer

Dan Cogan is the Academy Award®-winning producer of *ICARUS* and the Executive Director and Co-Founder of Impact Partners, a fund and advisory service for investors and philanthropists who seek to promote social change through film. Since its inception in 2007, Impact Partners has financed over 100 films, including *WON'T YOU BE MY NEIGHBOR?*, which won the 2019 Independent Spirit Award for Best Documentary, and *THE COVE*, which won the 2010 Academy Award for Best Documentary Feature.

CAROLINE HIRSCH, Producer

Caroline Hirsch, founder and owner of Carolines on Broadway, is a successful entrepreneur, producer, visionary and innovator in the entertainment industry with an illustrious career spanning 40 years. Her namesake club is one of the most enduring and respected comedy brands and a leading destination for live entertainment since 1982. Caroline has produced 110 hours of A&E's *CAROLINES COMEDY HOUR*, the Ms. Foundation's *LADIES OF COMEDY* for Lifetime, *CALL YOUR MOTHER* for Comedy Central, the 2018 feature film *ASK FOR JANE* and is producing *THE CONSPIRACY*, a documentary on antisemitism. Caroline also created the New York Comedy Festival, which features 200+ comedians in 100+ shows across all five boroughs. This November marks the 18th year of the festival.

ALLISON STERN, Producer

Allison Maher moved to New York to work as a model with the prestigious Wilhelmina agency. After modeling for several years, she began working in film and television production. She then optioned and produced the 1985 Prime Time Emmy award winning adaptation of Kurt Vonnegut's "Displaced Person" for the prestigious American Playhouse series on PBS. In 1987, she married New Yorker Leonard Stern. They will soon celebrate their 36th anniversary. Because of her passion for wildlife and conservation Allison became involved with the Wildlife Conservation Society, becoming a WCS Advisor, Trustee and then a Vice-Chair of the organization. She now serves as a Life Trustee. The

THE CONSPIRACY

Wildlife Conservation Society opened the new snow leopard exhibit at the Central Park Zoo in June 2009, named the "Allison Maher Stern Snow Leopard Exhibit" in recognition of a \$7 million leadership gift to WCS's Gateways to Conservation campaign by Allison and Leonard Stern. In 2019 Allison and her friend Caroline Hirsch became appalled after reading of the many incidents of antisemitism that were popping up in the news, not only in America and on campuses, but around the world. They started to explore the roots of this hatred and decided to create a film about where, why and how this began. The result of those efforts is "The Conspiracy", directed by Max Pozdorovkin, a small step in trying to explain the roots of this insanity.

LIZ GARBUS, Executive Producer

Two-time Academy Award®-Nominee, two-time Emmy Winner, Peabody Winner, Grammy Nominee, and DGA-Nominated director, Liz Garbus is one of the most celebrated documentary filmmakers working today. Garbus' latest docuseries THE FOURTH ESTATE, for Showtime, was nominated for a 2018 Emmy for Outstanding Documentary or Nonfiction Series. WHAT HAPPENED, MISS SIMONE?, a Netflix original, was nominated for a 2016 Oscar for Best Documentary Feature and took home the Emmy Award for Best Documentary or Nonfiction Special. Currently, Garbus is in postproduction on LOST GIRLS, a scripted feature for Netflix based on the book by the same name, starring Amy Ryan, Gabriel Byrne, and Thomasin McKenzie.